

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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HINCHEY EARMARKS \$2 MILLION FOR BINGHAMTON HUB

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that he has succeeded in earmarking \$2 million in a federal spending bill for the multi-purpose passenger transportation facility in downtown Binghamton. Hinchey, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, also secured \$2 million in the FY '02 appropriations process last year.

"This transportation hub will bring tremendous benefits to Binghamton," said Hinchey. "The downtown area will be revitalized and services will be improved. It will also greatly enhance the first impression people will have of the city, creating the potential for additional outside investment."

The hub will facilitate the transfer of passengers from the local bus and paratransit systems to the regional and intercity bus and rail systems. It will provide riders with safe and efficient transfers between different types of transportation as well as shelter from wind, rain and snow. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$6.3 million. In addition to the \$2 million Hinchey secured last year and the \$2 million he is seeking this year, the project will utilize an additional \$1 million in federal funds through the Surface Transportation Federal Highway Program.

"This would complete the funding for a project that will coordinate and consolidate bus operations in our region and transform a pivotal section of downtown Binghamton," said Binghamton Mayor Richard Bucci. "We appreciate Congressman Hinchey's ongoing efforts to secure the federal dollars that are critical to making the creative project a reality."

"The Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study identified the need for an intermodal transportation hub in downtown Binghamton as an important need in our regional transportation plan," said Steven Gayle, Executive Director of the Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study. "Congressman Hinchey's hard work to secure funding for this project demonstrates his recognition of the importance of using transportation investment to support not only the varied travel needs of the residents of the Binghamton metropolitan area, but also the economic development needs of the City of Binghamton."

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Hinchey also succeeded in placing \$250,000 in the spending bill for Broome County Transit through the federal Jobs Access and Reverse Commute program. These funds will allow BC Transit to increase access to employment opportunities for residents of the South and West End corridors of the City of Binghamton.

The FY '03 Transportation Appropriations bill in which this funding is included will be passed by the House Appropriations Committee this week. The next step is consideration by the full House of Representatives.